

Response Under 37 CFR 1.116
Expedited Procedure
Examining Group 3724

In the claims:

1-16 (canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 39, further comprising a flange that is removably fastened to said slide, on which said cutting tool and said ejector are arranged.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 39, wherein said ejector has a driver element extendable in a direction toward the counter-holder and engaging a seating of the ejector sleeve that is arranged to be displaceable along a counter-holder.

21. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 20, wherein said driver element comprises a bolt.

22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 39, wherein a cutting knife of the at least one cutting tool is fixedly or rotatably arranged on a mounting of said slide, said rotatable arrangement having a roller bearing.

23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 39, wherein a cutting knife of at least one cutting tool is arranged free wheeling.

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 39, wherein a cutting knife of the at least one cutting tool is rotatable and is driven with a preselectable rotation speed.

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25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 39, wherein said at least one cutting tool is resiliently, compliantly mounted in said flange against a feed movement of said cutting knife.
26. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said at least one cutting tool has an adjustable abutment force.
27. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 25, further comprising a recognition switch provided on said flange that senses a beginning of said tube during travel of said slide into a first cutting position.
28. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 27, wherein said recognition switch is arranged on said slide at an acute angle to an end face of said tube.
29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 39, wherein said tube is mounted free wheeling on said counter-holder and is rotated by power-operation by a left and a right guide roller.
30. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein said left and right guide roller, in the case of a tube internal diameter that is at least greater than the diameter of said counter-holder, engage on said tube in a manner such that said tube is supported on said counter-holder.
31. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein said left and right guide roller, in the case of a tube internal diameter that substantially corresponds to a diameter of said counter-holder, rests on said tube in a position acting against a cutting force.

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32. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 31, wherein at least one of said left and right guide roller is power-operated.
33. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 29, further comprising supporting arms on which said left and right guide rollers are pivotably arranged around a respective shaft, which left and right guide rollers are movable by a power element and a gearwheel pair coupled to said supporting arms.
34. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said power element is driven with compressed air and an operating pressure for the positioning movement of the power element is settable.
35. (Canceled)
36. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 32, further comprising a stepping motor and a threaded spindle wherein said actuating drive comprises said stepping motor and drives said threaded spindle with an interposition of a coupling.
37. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said recognition switch comprises a proximity switch.
38. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said guide rollers are provided on said supporting arms which are arranged pivotably around a respective shaft and which are synchronously movable by a power element and a gearwheel pair coupled to said supporting arms.
39. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for cutting tubes comprising:
a counter holder arranged to receive a tube,

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said counter-holder having an ejector sleeve mounted thereon, which
wherein said ejection sleeve is movable along the counter-holder, and positioned
in an ejector position after pushing the tube onto the counter holder.

at least one cutting tool[[,]] that is movable to a cutting position during a
cutting process,

a slide-carrying the at least one cutting tool, and an ejector and
a programmable control, for freely setting wherein the cut-off lengths of
tubular sleeves are freely settable by moving along said cutting tool on said slide
and for actuating a driver element engaging with the ejector in an ejector position
to strip off the tubular sleeves.

40. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 39, ~~further comprising~~
wherein a guide and an actuating drive[[,]] on which a said slide is arranged
displaceably parallel to said counter-holder in a guide and said slide is moved by
said an actuating drive in dependence on a cut length of said tube.